Law Enforcement Division Bi-Weekly Field Report 5/28/13 – 6/9/13

### **DISTRICT 1**

CO Ryan Aho checked numerous boats on Lake Independence. One boat had four passengers on board, was short two personal flotation devices (PFDs), and did not have the required fire extinguisher. The operator was ticketed for having an insufficient number of life jackets. Officer Aho checked another boat on the lake with two occupants and no PFDs on the vessel. That operator was also ticketed.

CO Trey Luce was checking boats on the Greenwood Reservoir. He observed one boat operating with a registration that expired in 2009. A check revealed the boat had not been registered and enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach, while on marine patrol on the Green Bay waters of Lake Michigan, contacted a 52 ft. cabin cruiser that was not displaying a registration decal. The owner stated he did not have to register his vessel because it was federally documented. After a brief discussion, the owner admitted he should have registered the vessel and paid the estimated \$72,000 in sales tax when he bought the boat in 2012. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach investigated a complaint that two subjects on ORVs attempted to pull the pay pipe out of the ground at a local state forest campground (SFC) using the ORVs and a chain. The subjects were unsuccessful in their larceny attempt and fled the scene as they were interrupted by a group of campers. CO Gerlach is following up on information provided by the witnesses.

COs Jason Wicklund and Doug Hermanson contacted a group of anglers returning to a local access site. As the COs were checking the individuals' licenses and fish, the COs observed several beer cans in the bottom of the boat. The COs also observed beer cans in the woods and water that had identical lot numbers. The individuals denied throwing the cans in the woods and water, but when presented with the matching lot numbers, admitted to throwing them out the day before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund was patrolling Lake Gogebic during the Memorial Day weekend when he came across a guy in possession of a short bass. The subject was issued a ticket and the fish was seized. Six days later COs Wicklund and Doug Hermanson checked the same area and observed the same guy fishing from the same spot. The COs watched him catch several fish and, upon contact, located two undersized walleyes. Once again the subject was issued a ticket and the fish were seized.

CO Jason Wicklund checked a local access site for fishing activity. With only one truck/trailer at the access site, the CO decided he would still launch to go check the angler. Upon contacting the angler, the CO learned that the motor on the boat had quit

working. They were trying to make it back four miles to the access site into a strong wind with only a trolling motor and not making much progress. The CO offered to tow them back, which they gratefully accepted.

CO Jason Wicklund was patrolling the ORV trail when he observed two individuals riding double on an ORV. CO Wicklund approached to contact them and was surprised to see them now pushing the ORV toward the CO. When contacted and asked why they were pushing the ORV, the individuals stated that the ORV was not licensed, and that they were pushing it home from a friend's house so they wouldn't get a ticket for operating an unlicensed ORV. The CO explained to them that he observed them riding toward the trail through the adjacent field. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund was on marine patrol and came across a boat with three occupants. When asked for a fishing license the individuals produced Wisconsin fishing licenses and claimed the lake was boundary water. Further inspection of the boat revealed three youth life jackets and an expired boat registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund was sent to a local gravel pit where youths were shooting off fireworks. After explaining to the juveniles that the hillside was dry and to not shoot that way, the CO left. Approximately 30 minutes later the CO received a call from dispatch that the hillside was on fire and the fire department was headed to the scene. The CO arrived and found the youths had left the area, but a call was made to the residence where CO Wicklund explained the incident to an upset father. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund responded to a call by a concerned camp owner in regard to a neighboring camp shooting "hundreds" of rounds of ammunition. When the CO arrived at the scene he found several individuals sitting around a campfire. The CO also observed an AK47, AR15, shotgun and a handgun nearby. All of the individuals had been drinking and were shooting at a pan hanging in a tree as well as an old computer tower. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund was checking a local lake when an individual approached him to say that he had seen some "shiny" items at the bottom of the lake when he was looking for bass. The CO and individual recovered a large collection of diamond, gold and silver jewelry, ammunition, and some personal items linked to a safe robbery the week before. The items were turned over to the local police department.

CO Jason Wicklund observed a father and two sons fishing and watched them land an undersized walleye. As the CO pulled up, the proud youth showed the CO his 12" walleye. When the CO stated that they should release it because it was too small, the other youth showed the CO a bucket with a 10" walleye in it. The father stated to the CO that he was not sure about the size limits and that he had found the fish floating nearby. Little did the father know, Sgt. Marc Pomroy was on vacation and had just

given them some leftover worms and explained the size limits shortly before CO Wicklund showed up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund was on patrol in Ontonagon County when he came across a group of ORVs that were covered in mud and unlicensed. The operators explained they were just on their way to purchase the ORV licenses. A check of the individuals showed that one of them had his driving rights suspended. The individuals were all ticketed.

CO Jason Wicklund was on a remote lake when he observed a canoe out after dark without any lights. As the CO was listening to the conversation between the people in the canoe and on shore, one of the individuals remarked that they hoped the truck at the access site was not a CO. CO Wicklund launched his boat and addressed the light issue but also learned neither individual had bothered purchasing a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon contacted two anglers shore fishing in the Groveland Mine Ponds. A check of the shoreline near the anglers turned up a stringer with three short bass. Neither angler could produce a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

# **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when a reckless driver came speeding down the road past him. The CO watched in his mirror as the driver came to a dead end on the road they were on. The vehicle turned around and once again came back in a reckless manner. An attempt was made to initiate a traffic stop but the subject wouldn't stop and accelerated to get away. The CO had to hold back from the pursuit for safety reasons due to the dusty road conditions. Fortunately, a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper was close by and heard the radio traffic, and was able to intercept the subject and bring the chase to an end. The driver was arrested for drunk driving and felony flee and elude.

CO Kyle Publiski was on patrol when he came across an angler without a fishing license. The subject claimed to have bought a license and, as he continued to dig through his wallet, finally claimed that he must have forgotten it at home. He went on to explain how he would never fish without a license. Further investigation revealed that the man didn't buy a license and that he had been ticketed in the past. He once again received a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Kevin Postma encountered two separate crews of anglers from out of state. One group from Indiana and was in possession of five short northern pike. They claimed that the legal limit for pike was 19 inches. The CO explained the regulations and tickets were issued. Moments later CO Postma ran into a Canadian crew with a few short walleye on board and they explained that there is no size limit for walleye in Michigan. Once again the CO explained the regulations and a ticket was issued.

CO Mike Evink ticketed a subject for not removing his ice shack from Indian Lake. CO Evink had already removed the shack from the open waters of the lake when he contacted the owner. At first the owner said he had removed his shack. CO Evink then reminded him that he had been ticketed in February for too many lines and the ice shack that he had been standing next to was the ice shack CO Evink removed from the water. After that explanation, the owner of the shack confessed to not removing it.

# **DISTRICT 3**

CO Duane Budreau and Sgt. Greg Drogowski followed up on a complaint of a subject burning tires, a TV, and plastic drawers from a refrigerator. A ticket was issued for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski investigated a complaint of a large amount of trash dumped on state land. Evidence was found in the trash which lead to a suspect. An interview with the suspect produced an admission and a ticket for littering. A clean-up of the site is also being provided by the defendant.

CO Bill Webster contacted the operator of an ORV parked in a closed area who was cutting trees which were blocking the illegal trail he wanted to ride on. CO Webster explained why the trees were blocking the trail and ticketed him for his violations.

### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Rebecca Hopkins handled a burning complaint where a subject in his 20s was playing with matches and lighting Cottonwood seed fluff on fire in his driveway. A gust of wind took some of the burning Cottonwood down the driveway and across the roadway into the distant ditch. The embers ignited the grass resulting in four acres being burned before the fire was suppressed. A ticket was issued for allowing the fire to escape.

CO Sean Kehoe observed a litter pile on state forest land in the Hoosier Valley area. By carefully going through the litter pile, CO Kehoe was able to locate suspect information. CO Kehoe contacted CO Rich Stowe who happened to be working another litter pile from a different location in Hoosier Valley with the same suspect information. CO Stowe had issued this subject a litter ticket approximately a week ago. CO Kehoe caught up with the subject upon his release from the county jail and issued him his second litter ticket in the past week.

CO Holly Pennoni was on an ORV patrol when she observed a modified golf cart operating illegally on the roadway without an ORV license. Upon contacting the operator, CO Pennoni observed numerous empty beer cans, along with one opened and full. During the contact the operator displayed several signs of intoxication. Field sobriety tests were administered along with a PBT. The operator's test results indicated a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit. The subject was arrested and lodged in the county jail.

CO Angela Greenway was on patrol utilizing a Cam Am Commander UTV and was able to locate a Jeep that had breached a barricade on state land and had traversed through a stream; and was in the act of destroying a wetland area. CO Greenway contacted the operator and took enforcement action on the numerous ORV violations.

CO Brian Brosky received a complaint of a subject shooting at Canada Geese along a river system. CO Brosky responded to the complaint and located the suspect. The subject admitted to shooting at the goose and killing it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky was on patrol when he observed a motorcycle with an expired plate operating on a two-track. The operator did not possess a motorcycle endorsement and had no insurance for the bike. The female passenger had multiple outstanding warrants for her arrest. The passenger was lodged in the Mason County jail with enforcement action taken on the operator.

CO Brian Lebel received a complaint that a subject had shot two wild turkeys. CO Lebel went to the residence and found that the suspect was at work. CO Lebel was granted access to the freezer where he located and seized two frozen wild turkeys. CO Lebel went to the suspect's place of employment and was able to obtain a confession that the subject had indeed shot two wild turkeys. Further questioning led to the suspect turning over a still unused turkey kill tag. Enforcement action was taken on the illegal bird and tagging violations.

# **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mike Hearn conducted an ORV patrol in areas of Kalkaska County where resource damage has been reported. Multiple contacts were made resulting in five tickets and an arrest for operating an ORV while suspended.

CO Mike Hearn conducted a litter investigation in Kalkaska County regarding the dumping of furniture on a wooded parcel of private property. The subject was tracked down and, after a lengthy interview, he confessed to the dumping. A warrant was sought for unlawful disposal of solid waste and the subject was ordered to clean up the site before appearing in court.

CO Mike Hearn responded to an ORV personal injury complaint called in by Kalkaska Hospital for a couple seeking treatment. Interviews were conducted and the scene and motorcycle were investigated. The two were operating on private property, riding double with no helmets on a dirt bike. A dog ran in front of the bike and, while attempting to avoid hitting him, the male operator crashed the bike. The female passenger sustained minor injuries to her wrist.

CO Brian Olsen was nearly hit by an ORV operator who disregarded a stop sign on an ORV trail in Ogemaw County. The CO was able to catch up to the operator and explain the important safety aspects of obeying traffic signs. A ticket for failing to stop before crossing a road went along with the explanation.

CO Jason McCullough was patrolling through state land in Clare County when he observed illegal ORV activity. Upon further investigation, he discovered two young subjects with a pellet gun. During the contact, it was discovered that the youth were out squirrel hunting and had already killed one squirrel and had taken it back to their house. Upon reaching the house, CO McCullough was able to retrieve the squirrel and make contact with the subjects' father. The two youths received an explanation regarding the importance of conservation and ethics and the father received a ticket for the numerous ORV infractions.

While on marine patrol on Lake St. Helen in Roscommon County, COs Mark Papineau and Brian Olsen observed several subjects fishing from a moored pontoon boat. As the COs approached, one of the subjects quickly put down his pole. During the contact, the subject advised that he was not fishing – just watching the other two who were fishing. Further discussion led to a confession and a ticket for fishing without a license.

A personal watercraft (PWC) operator who was not wearing a life jacket wishes she had not passed CO Jon Warner while he was on marine patrol. CO Warner was able to catch up and initiate a stop on the water. A ticket was issued for not wearing a life jacket and a verbal warning was given for not affixing a registration decal to the vessel.

CO Jon Warner assisted local and federal agencies in trying to locate a 14 year old youth who was missing in the Au Sable River. The youth was recovered from the river but, unfortunately, was not able to be revived.

While working ORV patrol, CO Jon Warner encountered an ORV operator who was not wearing a helmet and operating against the flow of traffic. The subject was also operating with a suspended driver's license and had several outstanding arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers during "Free Fishing Weekend", CO Steve Lockwood and Sgt. Jon Wood came across a subject who was fishing in Gladwin County. During the initial contact, the angler complained about how slow the fishing was but, he added that it didn't matter because he did not eat fish. During the conversation, CO Lockwood observed a stringer with what appeared to be an undersized northern pike anchored close to the angler. When the question finally came up as to how many fish he had kept, the subject admitted he had kept a few rock bass and very reluctantly mentioned he had a pike. The reluctance probably had to do with the fact that the pike was only 22 inches in length. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill was contacted by the Alcona County Sheriff's Department for assistance with apprehending a combative subject who had promised to kill the next deputy who attempted to arrest him. CO MacNeill, along with a U.S. Forest Service Officer, was able to make contact with the subject and quickly apprehend him, thereby avoiding a potentially dangerous situation.

### **DISTRICT 6**

CO Nick Atkin contacted three subjects aboard a vessel displaying an expired registration. During the check, the CO found that there were no life jackets on the vessel. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chad Foerster and Nick Atkin conducted a marine patrol on Saginaw Bay. During the patrol, the COs located multiple violations; including possession of several undersized walleye and failure to provide PFDs.

While on marine patrol, CO Joshua Wright found a muskrat trap that was still set from the prior trapping season. He followed up with the owner of the trap and issued him a ticket for trapping out of season. CO Wright has had prior contact with the trapper and has given him warnings on the same issue.

CO Joshua Wright was checking marine activity on a local river when he observed teenagers launching an unregistered boat. He notified the teens that they needed a registration before they operated the boat with the use of the engine. They left the launch paddling the boat. Knowing how well teens listen to authority, CO Wright went downstream and watched the teens from the woods. When they thought they were clear from the sight of the CO, they fired the engine up and headed down the river. CO Wright stepped out from the brush and made contact with them. A ticket was issued.

While on marine patrol CO Jason A. Smith contacted occupants of a vessel that was short a couple of wearable PFDs. They also had no Type IV throwable PFDs and had failed to transfer the registration when they purchased the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chad Foerster and Nick Atkin were contacted by the U S Coast Guard (USCG) requesting assistance on the Saginaw River with a vessel containing numerous intoxicated and disorderly subjects. With the COs assistance, order was restored and the operator of the stopped vessel was arrested and issued a ticket for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol.

CO Scott Brown received a complaint of an individual on Facebook posing in pictures with a fawn he had taken home after finding it in the wild. The fawn died a few days later and was retrieved by CO Brown. A warrant request has been submitted for the illegal possession of the fawn from the wild.

CO Scott Brown contacted a group of anglers in the Grindstone Harbor. While checking their catch, it became apparent that they were not measuring any fish and were keeping whatever they caught. Five undersized bass were in their bucket and their only explanation was they thought fishing was to catch fish to eat. A ticket was issued for possession of undersized bass.

From a distance, CO Larn Strawn observed two men fishing from a small motorized boat on Weidman Lake. After watching both men catch fish for some time he observed them make their way over to the boat launch and begin to take the watercraft off the lake. CO Strawn drove down into the boat launch and asked the men how the fishing was. One of the men replied, "We weren't fishing." The CO explained that he had been watching them for an hour with his binoculars and had seen them take pictures with their camera phones of themselves holding fish. The angler admitted to fishing without a license; however, he proudly showed CO Strawn the pictures of the nice 20 inch bass he angled aboard. While talking to the men and conducting a quick safety inspection of the vessel the CO noted it was not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Midland County COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person responded to an assault complaint on state land. When the COs arrived at a large camp and located the suspect vehicle, several individuals ran into the woods. Officers used night vision equipment and located several of the suspects. Two other suspects were located at residences. Tickets, warnings and arrests were made for resisting and obstructing police, minor in possession of alcohol, disorderly conduct and one individual was lodged on an outstanding DNR warrant.

While patrolling Dickerson Lake in Montcalm County, COs Ken Lowell and Dan Lee located a paddleboat occupied by two anglers. A check of the paddleboat revealed the anglers did not have any PFDs on board. A quick check of both anglers' licenses resulted in one warrant arrest and a ticket for failing to provide life jackets.

While patrolling in Montcalm County CO Ken Lowell located a couple anglers fishing from the roadside. Both men produced fishing licenses and they stated that the fish were not really biting. One angler admitted to not catching any fish to keep and the other angler admitted to only catching a couple small bass. Officer Lowell located a bucket in the anglers' van and asked to see what was inside. A check of the bucket produced an overlimit of bass as well as four undersized bass. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 7**

CO Steve Mooney contacted a subject who was in possession of 15 panfish over the limit at a local VanBuren County lake. The subject also had a warrant for his arrest. The subject was ticketed for the violation and lodged at the local jail.

While conducting ORV checks in the area of the Cedar Creek Trail System, CO Greg Patten contacted two individuals operating ORVs on the roadway. CO Patten was told that they had a friend who was broken down and they were going back for equipment. While speaking with the subjects, the third ORV operator came riding down the roadway. Further investigation revealed some of the ORVs were not titled and did not have spark arresters. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten observed a juvenile subject without eye protection operating a motorcycle on the Cedar Creek Trail System. Upon making contact with the 11year old and his father, he learned the juvenile's motorcycle did not have an ORV license, nor did the juvenile have an ORV safety education certificate. The father was ticketed for allowing his son to operate the motorcycle without completing the ORV safety education course.

While checking illegal ORV trails in the Rogue River State Game Area (SGA), CO David Rodgers could hear an engine revving loudly from another trail to the west. CO Rodgers went to that area and located a Ford F150 truck stuck in a mud hole. The truck was buried up to the doors in the mud hole. The driver was ticketed for operating in a closed area.

CO BJ Goulette was patrolling southern Muskegon County when he observed a large plume of black smoke coming from behind a residence. Upon checking behind the residence, he observed a subject burning wood and tires. The subject stated he believed the wood contained termites and was burning it up to kill the insects. The subject stated he was told by a friend he could legally use one tire to start the fire. CO Goulette then asked why there were at least two tires in the fire. CO Goulette also informed the subject the insects on the wood were not termites, but rather a harmless beetle larvae. The subject was ticketed for burning the tires.

CO Cary Foster observed three subjects fishing near the Lowell Dam in an area enclosed within a fence and clearly marked as no trespassing. Upon watching the subjects for a short time, he observed one of the subjects catch a short smallmouth bass and toss it into a bucket. Upon making contact with the subjects, three short bass were located in the bucket. None of the three subjects had purchased fishing licenses and all three were ticketed.

While patrolling the Flat River SGA near Belding, CO Cary Foster observed a subject digging in the dirt near a wetland area. Upon making contact with the subject, she stated she was bird-watching and denied digging. Further investigation revealed the subject was indeed digging and had dug up two turtle nests and had the eggs in her backpack. The subject stated she was "a naturalist" and was trying to save the eggs from raccoons. It was explained to the subject that this was not only illegal, but part of the natural wildlife cycle. The subject was ticketed for removing the eggs and the eggs were returned to the nests.

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint of subjects netting fish illegally in Augusta Creek. Due to the thick brush CO Holmes entered the stream to locate the suspects and observed them throwing a cast net. CO Holmes waited until the suspects were approximately five feet from him before making contact and seizing a nylon bag of fish they had in their possession as well as the illegal cast net. The subjects were in possession of 42 illegally taken brown trout. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Gary Raak followed the tracks of a group of trucks he witnessed in the Barry SGA. After hiding his vehicle he was able to locate the vehicles damaging a parking area on state land by driving erratically through a nearby mud hole. One of the vehicles became stuck and after its removal he witnessed two more trucks operating recklessly. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Bauer and Steve Mooney patrolled Lake Michigan out of St. Joseph and located two different boats fishing for salmon using too many lines. One boat exceeded the legal limit by seven lines, while the second boat had six additional lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer and Sgt. Zach Doss patrolled a stump filled section of the St. Joseph River in St. Joseph County and discovered a number of marine violations. Five tickets were issued for failing to have any PFDs on board. A number of other marine related warnings were issued and the public was happy to see the difficult section of the river patrolled.

CO Andy Bauer assisted a local police department with an ORV issue. A subject had built a dirt track for dirt bike use in a residential area and the local residents complained about the loud noise of the dirt bikes operating approximately 40 feet from houses in the neighborhood. CO Bauer, along with the local township police, contacted the individual and explained that the law prohibited operation in a residential area within 300 feet of residences. The subject was given a copy of the law and warned regarding future violations.

CO Greg Patten obtained a two count warrant charging a suspect in a wildfire he investigated last month in Muskegon County. The subject will be charged with burning without a permit and allowing a fire to escape. Suppression costs may total several thousand dollars in this case.

CO Dave Rodgers was on patrol in Kent County, along the Grand River, at approximately 3:00 a.m. one night. After checking three anglers near the dam, a computer check indicated one was wanted on a felony drug warrant and was placed in custody. During the arrest another subject quickly tossed a container in the river to avoid CO Rodgers locating the item. The subject was ticketed for littering. Tickets were also issued for license violations and one subject was transported to jail.

CO Dave Rodgers patrolled the Rouge River SGA one night to locate a truck buried in the mud near Clear Lake. The owner was attempting to dig the truck out with a shovel. As this area is a frequent location for illegal ORV activity, the owner was ticketed for his illegal operation in the game area.

CO Dave Rodgers was checking anglers on Free Fishing Weekend and encountered a subject who was fishing and appeared rather nervous. During questioning the angler admitted to not having a fishing license but stated he had caught nothing to this point. He was unaware that a license is not required on this day. CO Rodgers noted a fish

smell coming from nearby and continued to check the area for fish. The CO eventually found two undersized bass about 20 yards away from the angler. After a short conversation the angler admitted they were his fish and he was ticketed for retaining undersized bass.

### **DISTRICT 8**

CO Derek Miller worked the Huron River and contacted several anglers at a dam. He found one subject fishing without a license who also had a warrant for her arrest and was in possession of an undersized fish. A warning was issued for the fish, a ticket was issued for the license violation and she was able to post bond on the warrant.

CO Derek Miller checked anglers further down the Huron River. He found several groups of anglers fishing near the Wayne County line. One subject handed him an ID card and stated that his wife wasn't fishing at all. A file check revealed the subject to have eight outstanding warrants from Wayne County. CO Miller transported the subject to the north county line where he was turned over to the local police officers on several of his warrants.

CO Derek Miller took a complaint of careless operation of ORVs on county roads, racing, spinning doughnuts, and causing problems. He located a young subject racing down the road and after a traffic stop he went back to the property where he came from to contact the adult. While there he witnessed another four ORVs tear down the roadway and a high rate of speed. CO Miller made contact with all of those operators who turned out to all be juveniles so he addressed the group, and later took enforcement action with the parents for failing to supervise juveniles on ORVs. Warnings were given for no eye protection, operate on roadway, no ORV license, and careless operation.

While patrolling in Lenawee County CO Derek Miller witnessed a subject without a helmet pull out on the state highway on an ORV at a high rate of speed and travel on the paved portion of the roadway right in front of him. He stopped the operator who stated she was just going down the road to her other piece of property. CO Miller made the operator aware that she was not to be on the highway to begin with, in the lane of traffic, and without a helmet on. He ticketed the operator for failing to wear a helmet and escorted her safely back to a side road where she could get on to her property.

COs Derek Miler and Damon Owens conducted a marine patrol in Lenawee County. During their marine patrol they contacted a boat with three subjects fishing. None of the subjects had a fishing license and the watercraft registration was not visible. The owner could not show proof of registration and one subject had a felony warrant out of Texas. They also did not have a fire extinguisher on board. Tickets were issued for the fishing violations and one of the marine violations. Texas was contacted and advised to release him; they would not come to get him.

COs Jason Smith and Derek Miller worked a marine patrol and contacted several boats and several anglers on the Huron River. They later contacted a group of juveniles at a boat launch and instantly smelled marijuana in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle and its occupants revealed a small amount of marijuana, a pipe, and tobacco products. Two occupants of the vehicle were minors. They turned the juveniles over to their parents due to their age, and seized all of the illegal property.

CO Kyle Bader assisted a group of subjects who were having trouble while jet skiing and jet boating on Coldwater Lake. CO Bader's attention was drawn to the PWC that was completely upside down with two subjects in the water trying to right it. The subjects were able to get their craft upright, but were unable to board it. CO Bader pulled both subjects onto his boat. The female subject got on fine, but when the male subject got on, the PWC sank. After a few failed attempts, he accepted CO Bader's offer for a ride to his dock. He advised the CO that he is a pro football player in the NFL and this isn't the first time his size has limited what activities he can participate in.

CO Jason J Smith was patrolling Lenawee County for marine activity when he observed an angler fishing from a boat. A check of the angler revealed that he did not have a fishing license and did not have a single PFD on board. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a marine patrol, COs Todd Thorn and Rich Nickols contacted a boat not displaying any registration numbers or decal. The operator admitted to purchasing the boat a couple months ago, had not registered it in his name, had no paperwork for the boat, did not have enough PFDs for all persons aboard, and did not have a Type IV PFD. A ticket was issued.

CO Rich Nickols contacted three subjects fishing in a boat on Hi-Land Lake. Two of the three subjects had fishing licenses and one readily admitted to not having his license and said he was done fishing. The subjects also had a mess of bluegills in their cooler. CO Nickols asked how many they had and they said maybe 30 or 40. CO Nickols felt fairly confident the subjects had over 50 fish, and told the person without a license he'd make him a deal. If they had less than 50 fish he would be given a warning but if they had more than 50 he would be issued a ticket. Tension mounted as they counted 30 then 40 then up to 55. The subject also admitted to fishing the last couple years and had not purchased a license since 2010. For some reason he was still not happy when CO Nickols wrote him a ticket.

While patrolling on the Grand River, CO Rich Nickols stopped to check a shore angler. The subject said he had a license but had left it in a different back pack. A file check and RSS check showed the subject had not purchased a license for 2013 and had two outstanding warrants. The subject was arrested and transported by boat back to the launch and turned over to another agency.

On the same patrol of the Grand River, CO Rich Nickols stopped to check another shore angler who was just getting ready to leave. When asked if he had caught anything, the subject said no. Just then several fish on a stringer began to splash in the

water. Two undersized smallmouth bass were on the stringer. The subject said he just kept them on there to show his daughters and then was going to release them. The subject also did not have a fishing license.

CO Pete Purdy, while on boat patrol, made contact with a vessel that didn't have enough PFDs on board. It was also discovered through DNR priors that the operator/vessel owner was issued a ticket by CO Daniel Prince in 2011 for the same infraction. He was again issued a ticket for failure to provide PFDs.

CO Damon Owens reports closing a deer season case with a guilty finding of three illegal deer, totaling \$3000 in reimbursement to the state, community service and other fines and costs.

While patrolling several lakes, CO Dan Bigger encountered several marine issues. Throughout the patrol, CO Bigger issued four tickets for failing to provide PFDs, one ticket for operating an unregistered vessel, and one ticket for failing to have a fire extinguisher on board. CO Bigger also made three warrant arrests and was met at the launch by the local agency for transport to the jail.

### **DISTRICT 9**

CO Ben Lasher was working with an intern on the wall on the St. Clair River near the Voyager Restaurant and checked several anglers. Two different subjects were fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher checked anglers in the Port Huron SGA along the river. After walking back in on the trails along Mill Creek, contact was made with anglers using nightcrawlers as bait. Unfortunately, two of the anglers did not have licenses, and were probably surprised to be checked in the game area for a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher followed up on a tip from CO Todd Szyska who had observed an angler with four lines out trolling south down the St. Clair River from Marysville. CO Lasher was able to respond from his patrol boat and found the subject and made contact. The angler was definitely fishing with more than three lines and did not have any PFDs aboard. The angler commented to CO Lasher that he knew it would just be a matter of time before he was caught. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in Port Huron, CO Ken Kovach contacted an angler who had a white bass and a "green bass" in his bucket. The subject wanted to throw the smallmouth bass back as CO Kovach was talking to him. CO Kovach took possession of the out of season and undersized smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach checked on suspicious vehicles at the Port Huron SGA. After walking in on a beaten down trail, CO Kovach came upon a large camp. The CO found that there were six individuals living on the land. The subjects were from North Carolina,

they had a large camp site set up, they were in possession of undersized trout, and because they were non-residents they did not possess any Michigan fishing licenses. They were "homeless" and had purchased a home in the area, but could not move into it until a certain date. Enforcement action was taken.